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Rural District of
Morpeth



ANNUAL
- REPORT -
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1946

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Morpeth Rural District Council.

LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health concerning the health and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District in 1946.

The figures of the Vital Statistics are fairly satisfactory. The birth rate shows a slight increase and the death rate a slight decrease.

The maternal mortality rate is nil and the infantile mortality rate has declined from 55.56 per 1,000 live births in 1945 to 42.07 in 1946. The birth rate is slightly higher and the mortality rates are all slightly lower than the corresponding rates for the whole of England and Wales.

On the direction of the Ministry of Health, the water supplies of the district have been described in some detail, and particulars have been given of the number of houses and the number of population receiving piped supplies from public mains in each parish where such supplies exist.

The problem of providing a suitable and adequate supply of water to all the inhabitants in an area such as the Morpeth Rural District is one of great magnitude and difficulty, but plans are being prepared with a view to improving the situation in several parts of the area.

I should like, once more, to express my gratitude for the consideration extended to me by members of the Council and for the assistance and co-operation I have received from the staffs of the Health and other departments of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGregor,

*Medical Officer of Health,
Rural District of Morpeth.*

August, 1947.

RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	CATHERINE B. McGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary				
Housing	Inspector	...	...	MR. T. T. WATSON, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. Certs., Meat Inspector's Certs.
Meat				
Sanitary Surveyor	...	...	...	MR. J. COATES, P.S.I. & S.I.J.B. Certs., Meat Inspector's Certs.
Offices of the R.D.C.	...	...	...	DACRE STREET, MORPETH.
Telephone	...	...	...	MORPETH 24.
Offices of the M.O.H.	...	...	...	146, STATION ROAD, ASHINGTON.
Telephone	...	...	...	ASHINGTON 287.

RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH For 1946.

SECTION A.

Area in acres ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	79,193
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1946	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	15,960
Rateable Value ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	£67,585
One Penny Rate produces ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	£247 8s. 2d.
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1946) ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	4,323

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births :—

Live Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	290	164	126
Illegitimate	19	11	8
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ...	... ...	... ...	19.36
Still Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	6	4	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	19.00
Deaths	156	97	59	9.77

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List) :—	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...

No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 30. Other maternal causes	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	42.07
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	37.90
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	105.26
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	24
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	Nil

The Registrar General supplies the following :—

CAUSES OF DEATHS, 1946.

									Males.	Females.
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	1
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
11.	Acute Polio-myel. and Polio-enceph.	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
12.	Acute Inf. Enceph.	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	1
13.	Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Œsoph. (M.), Uterus (F.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	—
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	8
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
18.	Inter-cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	12
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	...	20
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	—
29.	Puerperal and Post-abort. Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1
32.	Con. Mal., Birth Inj., Infant Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	1
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
34.	Road Traffic Accident	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	1
36.	All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	3
								97		59
								—		—

Deaths of Infants under one year :—

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	2
								—		—
								8		4
								—		—

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1946.

	Under 1—2 1 wk.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	Under 1 mth.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 months.	9—12 months.	Under 1 year.	
Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	...	4
Prematurity	...	5	—	—	5	—	—	—	...	5
Birth Injury	...	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	...	2
Congenital Abnormality	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	...	2
	6	1	—	—	7	2	3	—	1	13

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities are available at the Laboratory belonging to the Northumberland County Council. The extent to which the facilities have been utilized is shown below :—

Specimen Sent in by	Specimen.	Positive.	Negative.
C.C.T.O. ...	Sputa for Tubercl...	6	24
General Practitioners ...	do. ...	5	50
M.O.H. ...	Swabs for Diphtheria ...	6	112
General Practitioners ...	do. ...	59	248
General Practitioners ...	Swabs for Hæmolytic Streptococcus	30	64
General Practitioners ...	Swabs for Vincent's Angina	1	3
General Practitioners ...	Miscellaneous ...	2	4
M.O.H. ...	Blood for Widal	2	7
General Practitioners ...	do. ...	1	2
M.O.H. ...	Fæces for Typhoid and Dysentery	—	4
General Practitioners ...	do.	—	8
M.O.H. ...	Virulence Tests for C. Diphtheria	3	1

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The eastern part of the district is served by Colliery Welfare Ambulances situated as follows :— Broomhill, 3; Pegswood, 1; Stobswood, 1. The Lynemouth, Linton and Ellington areas are served by ambulances based on Ashington Hospital.

By arrangement with the Borough of Morpeth, the western part of the district is served by the Morpeth Borough Ambulance. The Council is responsible to the Borough Council for the payment of fees which are subsequently, if possible, recovered from the patients.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There are ten district nurses situated as follows :— Broomhill, 2; Mitford, 1; Meldon, 1; Pegswood, 1; Widdrington, 1; Cambo, 1; Felton, 1; Longhirst, 1; Longhorsley, 1.

HOSPITALS.

The only one in the district is St. Andrew's Colony, an institution belonging to Northumberland County Council Committee for the Care of Mental Defectives.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

There are no material changes to report concerning the water supplies in the Rural District.

In the eastern industrial and more densely populated parts of the district, where water is obtained mainly by bulk purchase from Tynemouth Corporation, the supply has been satisfactory in quality. For a short time in the summer the Water Engineer of Tynemouth Corporation found it necessary to cut off the supply during the night, but apart from this the supply from this source has, on the whole, been adequate in quantity. This water is chlorinated and regularly tested by the vendors.

In the agricultural western area the position is less satisfactory and many communities obtain water from sources which are both inadequate and unsuitable from a bacteriological standpoint.

Out of a total of 60 parishes in the Morpeth Rural District, there are 26 which are wholly without piped water supplies from public mains. These are the parishes of Molesden, Tritlington (3 dairy farms), Causey Park, North Middleton, High Angerton, Low Angerton, Highlaws, Corridge, Todridge (a dairy farm), Hartburn (one dairy farm), South Middleton, Earsdon (2 dairy farms), Earsdon Forest, Meldon, West Thornton (one dairy farm), East Thornton, Rivergreen, Hartburn Grange, Cambo, Deanham, Throphill, Wallington Demesne, Edington, Bullock's Hall, Longwitton and Whitridge.

The inhabitants of these parishes depend for their supplies on wells and springs, of which most are inadequate and many are liable to contamination. The total estimated population involved is 1,278 and the number of houses 329, including 8 dairy farms and 3 schools.

Below are given tabulated summaries of the water supplies in the remaining 34 parishes. This information has been obtained from surveys carried out by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

PARISHES SUPPLIED IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITH WATER DISTRIBUTED
THROUGH COUNCIL'S MAINS.

Parish.	Total No. of Houses.	Estimated Population.	Houses With Inside Taps (Estimated Population in brackets).	Houses Supplied by Standpipes (Est. Population in brackets).	Houses Without Piped Supplies.	Source of Main Supply.
Ulgham	534	1,505	464 (1,305)	67 (197)	1 (water carried from main supply)	Tynemouth water from Hebron Reservoir.
Widdrington	93	400	25 (120)	59 (230)	9 (springs & field drains, all inadequate and unsatisfactory)	Tynemouth water from Hebron Reservoir.
Old Moor	23	90	21 (82)	Nil	2 (wells)	Tynemouth water.
Hepscott	110	350	88 (279) including 2 supplied by Tynemouth Corpn. mains, 1 by Morpeth Corpn. mains, 1 by Bedlingtonshire U.D. mains.	6 (20)	16 (supplied by wells or springs or carrying water from main sup- ply. Includes 1 dairy farm)	Tynemouth water.
Lynemouth	622	2,400	622 (2,400)	Nil	Nil	Tynemouth water.
Longhirst	131	450	65 (275)	55 (130)	11 (springs and shallow wells)	Tynemouth water.
Pegswood	659	2,838	655 (2,822)	4 (16)	Nil	Tynemouth water.
Ellington	351	1,223	345 (1,202)	4 (14)	2 (1 shallow well, 1 spring)	Tynemouth water.
Cresswell	64	250	46 (184)	3 (12)	15 (11 served by a stand- pipe to which water is piped from a spring)	Tynemouth water from Hebron Reservoir.
Mitford	45	150	23 (79) 1 on Morpeth Corpn. main, 1 Tynemouth Corpn. main, 1 on Morpeth Mental Hos- pital main.	7 (21)	15 (1 carries water from main supply. 14, in- cluding 2 dairy farms, rely on springs or wells, all inadequate and unsatisfactory)	Tynemouth water.
Thiraston	97	250	71 (182) 7 (20) spring supply.	Nil	19 (including two dairy farms, rely on springs and wells)	Alnwick R.D.C. Morpeth R.D.C.
Cockle Park	10	45	4 (22) 1 has spring supply & connection to Tyne- mouth Corpn. main.	Nil	6 (springs)	Tynemouth water.
West Chevington	37	170	3 (12) supply inadequate.	Nil	34 (including three dairy farms. Springs and wells, mostly inade- quate and often contaminated)	Tynemouth water.

**PARISHES PARTLY SUPPLIED BY WATER DISTRIBUTED THROUGH MAINS
BELONGING TO OTHER AUTHORITIES.**

Parish.	No. of Houses.	Estimated Population.	Houses With Inside Taps (Estimated Population in brackets).	Houses supplied by Standpipes (Est. Population in brackets).	Houses Without Piped Supplies.	Supplying Authority.
East Chevington	801	3,137	153 (608)	627 (2,457)	21 (17 depend on springs, 3 have to carry water, 1 has water delivered by churn)	Purchased by Broomhill Collieries Ltd. from Amble U.D.C. Distribution is poor and supply is inadequate.
Hadstone	8	33	3 (12)	5 (21)	Nil	Do.
Hebron	19	73	5 (20) 4 on Tynemouth Corp. main, 1 on Morpeth Mental Hosp. main.	12 (45)	2 (rely on springs, taps in houses)	Tynemouth Corporation mains.
Witton Shields	3	11	2 (8)	Nil	1 (no proper supply)	Morpeth Mental Hosp. mains.
Nunridding	6	22	4 (14)	Nil	2 (1 with no proper supply, 1 water carried from spring)	Morpeth Mental Hosp. mains.
Newton Underwood	13	59	6 (25)	Nil	7 (2 have spring supply which is quite adequate)	Morpeth Mental Hosp. mains, inadequate supply.
Newton Park	2	7	2	Nil	Nil	Morpeth Mental Hosp. mains.
Stanton	21	74	7 (28)	Nil	14 (13 rely on inadequate springs, 1 carries water from main supply)	Tynemouth Cor. mains.
Tranwell	34	110	13 (11 have well supplies which may be supplemented from Morpeth Borough mains).	Nil	21 (18, including 1 dairy farm, rely on springs and wells, 3 supplied by deep boreholes)	Tynemouth Cor. mains. Morpeth Boro' mains.
Netherwitton	39	130	5 (24) 1 on Morpeth Mental Hospital mains, 4 on Tynemouth Corp. mains.	Nil	34 (24 are on privately-owned spring supply, adequate and pure, 10 with taps and 14 with standpipes. 10 rely on springs and wells, inadequate or contaminated with iron salts. Includes 2 dairy farms)	Tynemouth Corporation. Morpeth Mental Hosp. mains.
Pigdon	15	45	15 (45) 3 on Tynemouth mn., 9 on Mental Hospital main.	Nil	Nil	Tynemouth Corp. main. Morpeth Mental Hosp. main.
High & Low Highlaws	45	150	11 (42) 8 on Tynemouth mn., 3 on Mental Hospital main (1 dairy farm).	Nil	34 (18 on piped supply from springs, including 2 dairy farms, 14 supplied by boreholes, 2 with no water supply)	Tynemouth Cor. mains. Morpeth Mental Hosp. main.
Spital Hill	3	14	2 (10)	Nil	1 (water carried from main supply)	Mental Hospital main.
Benridge	22	73	14 (49) one dairy farm.	Nil	8 (4 rely on springs, 3 on wells, poor and inadequate, 1 no supply)	Mental Hospital main.
Longshawe	3	11	1 (4)	Nil	2 (poor spring supplies)	Tynemouth Corp. main.
Longhorsley Area (3 Parishes)	148	370	16 (48) spring supply supplemented from Tynemouth main when necessary.	2 (6) supplemented by poor and inadequate, Tynemouth mn. includes 1 dairy farm, when necessary. 3 have no supply)	47 (springs & wells, many	Tynemouth Corporation.
			57 (124) Village supply.	26 (75) Village supply.	Village supply gravitates from a spring, quite adequate and pure.	

PARISHES WITHOUT PUBLIC MAINS BUT PARTLY SUPPLIED FROM BOREHOLES.

Parish.	No. of Houses.	Estimated Population.	No. of Houses With Taps from Boreholes (Est. Population in brackets).	No. of Houses supplied by Standpipes from Boreholes (Est. P. in brackets).	No. of Houses With Other Supplies.	Remarks.
Eshott	28	100	26 (92)	Nil	2 (spring supply)	Excellent supply from borehole.
Bockenfield	18	80	6 (26)	1 (4)	11 (relying on springs, by pumps or gravitation, includes 1 dairy farm)	Borehole supply excellent. Others mainly inadequate.
Fenrother	16	56	3 (10) Dairy farm.	Nil	13 (springs and well)	Borehole supply good and plentiful.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The public cleansing in the Parishes of West and East Chevington, Lynemouth, Ellington and Hepscott is carried out by direct labour.

The scavenging in the Parishes of Pegswood, Longhirst, Ulgham, Widdrington, Cresswell and Longhorsley is carried out by contract.

The waggons which are used by the Contractors leave much to be desired, being all of the open type without proper covers. The introduction of scavenging by direct labour, employing suitable vehicles, would be an improvement which might be considered by the Council in the interests of health and hygiene.

SHOPS.

No action has been found necessary.

CAMPING SITES.

New licences granted for camping sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Renewal licences	„ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	2

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

New licences granted to station moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	12
Renewal licences „ „ „ „ „	„	...	...	...	19

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints or nuisance arising from the pollution of the atmosphere from smoke have been received or detected during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no (a) public or (b) privately-owned swimming baths within the district.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of private houses found to be infested during the year	1
---	-----	-----	-----	---

Number of Council houses found to be infested during the year	1
---	-----	-----	-----	---

The method employed for the disinfection of houses is by means of "Zaldecide" as a spray and sulphur dioxide.

One Council house found dirty and overcrowded.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The scavenging tips, salvage depot, Pegswood Sewerage Works and Lynemouth Pumping Station have, during the year, received the attention of a professional rat catcher who visits periodically.

Situation of tips:—Broomhill, 2; Widdrington, 1; Ulgham, 1; Longhirst, 1; Pegswood, 1; Lynemouth, 1; Longhorsley, 1; Ellington, 1; and Old Moor, 1.

The central Salvage Depot is at Pegswood.

SCHOOLS.

There are 18 schools and all have a sufficient water supply except Cambo, where the water from time to time becomes rather scarce. Ten schools have the water-carriage system with sufficiency of water.

WATER SAMPLES.

Twenty-two samples of water were taken and submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

The results were as follows :—

Date.	Place of Collection.	Probable No. of Coli-Aerogenes organisms per 100 m.l. of water.
8/ 1/46.	Field spring, West Chevington	Nil
8/ 1/46.	Tap at West Chevington Farm	1
27/ 2/46.	Well, Gladstones Buildings, Longhorsley	2
27/ 2/46.	Standpipe, Longhorsley Village	Nil
12/ 3/46.	Well at Woodside Cottage, Tranwell	Nil
12/ 3/46.	Tap at Tranwell Cottages	Nil
26/ 3/46.	Tap, Meldon Cottages, Meldon Hall	1
26/ 3/46.	Tap, Woodman Cottage, Meldon Hall	Nil
2/ 4/46.	Standpipe, Chevington Crescent	Nil
2/ 4/46.	Standpipe, Swarland Terrace	Nil
8/ 4/46.	Standpipe, Netherwitton Village	1
8/ 4/46.	Tap, Hartburn School	Nil
30/ 4/46.	Well, Causey Park	Nil
30/ 4/46.	Well, West View, Causey Park	25
13/ 8/46.	Pump, Wake & Wood's Garage, Fairmoor	180+
13/ 8/46.	Tap, Cottage, Low Heighley	180+
13/ 8/46.	Tap, Schoolhouse, Tritlington	11
13/ 8/46.	Tap, Straker's Café, Tritlington	180+
23/ 9/46.	Tap, Burgham Farm	180+
23/ 9/46.	Storage Tank, Causey Park Farm Cottages	180+
12/11/46.	Tap, East Throphill Farm House	8
12/11/46.	Meldon Hall Lodge	25

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The following works were undertaken during the year:—

New drainage connection to sewer and abolition of cesspool at "The Croft," Ellington.

,, , to farm buildings, Causey Park Bridge.

,, ,,, Northumberland Arms Hotel, Thirston.

,, , and septic tank, Eshott S.E. Houses Farm Cottages.

,, ,,, main sewer, Lilac Cottage, Cresswell Road.

,, ,,, septic tank, Longhirst Brocks Cottages.

.. .. to No. 1 Longhirst Village.

,, , and septic tank, Stables Cottage, Linden.

and septic tank, Co-operative Cottages, Longhirst Colliery.

Septic tanks cleaned out at Cambo.

ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

New wash-house, Whinney Hill Farm.

, , Haredene Farm.
, , Hall Lane.

Conversion of Cresswell Home Farm House into two dwellings. S. J. & J. L. K. 1901

One cottage repaired, Longhirst Kennels.
Herdwick sheep. G. B. W.

Hatch doors repaired at Cement Row, Widdrington.

,, ,,, Linhope Terrace,
South Bank

Statutory notices served on Mr. W. D. Gladstone for defective drainage at Gladstone's Buildings, Longhorsley. Action taken at court in March, 1946, for non-compliance with notice.

Statutory notice served on J. Gebhard, Morpeth, for defects at cottages, Causey Park.

Notices served on Broomhill Coal Company in connection with repairs at Swarland Terrace and East Chevington. Number of ashbins supplied: 34.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Conversions to the water-carriage system took place as follows:—

Eshott S.E. Houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Gardener's Cottage, Ghyllheugh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lilac Cottage, Cresswell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Garden Cottage, Linden	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stables Cottage, Linden	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Longhirst Brocks Farm Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. 1, Longhirst Village	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Felshott Kennels, Thirston	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
West View, Windmill Field, Ellington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Co-operative Cottages, Longhirst Colliery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
												15

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT: YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1946.

	Number of Inspections during year.	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Byelaws.	No. Outstanding from previous year.	TOTAL.	No. Remedied after Letter or Interview.	Number of INFORMAL Notices served.	Defects Remedied thereafter.	Number of STATUTORY Notices served.	Defects Remedied thereafter.	In Progress or being dealt with.	Legal proceedings.
HOUSING.											
Structural Defects (summary of sheet 11)											
Defective Food Store	54	13	—	13	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dampness	62	16	—	16	12	4	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	8	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nuisances	140	43	—	43	43	—	—	—	—	—	—
WATER.											
Insufficient	36	3	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory	...	9	—	9	8	1	—	—	—	—	—
DRAINAGE.											
Insufficient	75	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Defective	...	16	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SANITARY CONVENiences.											
Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective	159	39	—	39	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shops, Food Stores, etc.	120	4	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	51	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Yans, etc.	82	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Workshops and Workplaces	22	6	—	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	256	80	—	80	60	—	—	1	20	—	—
Ashpits improperly used	80	10	—	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Petrol Stores	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1,145	243	—	243	174	4	—	3	20	—	1

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

		After Letter or Interview.	After Informal Notice.	After Statutory Notice.	TOTAL.
Privies abolished ...	...	—	—	—	—
„ repaired ...	...	30	—	—	30
Privy Ashpits abolished ...	...	—	—	—	—
„ „ roofed or repaired ...	...	32	—	—	32
Pail Closets abolished ...	...	—	—	—	—
Water Closets provided ...	...	—	—	—	—
„ „ repaired ...	...	4	—	—	4
Sanitary Bins provided ...	...	14	—	—	14
„ „ renewed ...	...	34	—	—	34
New Drains constructed ...	...	—	—	—	—
Drains repaired or reconstructed ...	...	—	—	—	—
Additional Gullies provided ...	...	—	—	—	—
Old Gullies replaced ...	...	—	—	—	—
Scullery Sinks provided ...	...	—	—	—	—
„ Waste Pipes repaired ...	...	6	—	—	6
„ „ „ trapped ...	...	—	—	—	—
Yards repaired or reconstructed ...	...	—	—	—	—
Sources closed or discontinued ...	...	Nil	Number of houses affected ...	...	Nil
New services provided ...	...	Nil	Number of houses affected ...	...	Nil

RIVER POLLUTION.

Cases detected ...	...	...	1	Particulars ...	...	Cesspool overflowing.
Remedied ...	...	...	1	Particulars ...	...	Cesspool cleaned out (Longhirst).
S.D. Works provided ...	...	...	Nil	Particulars ...	...	Nil.

MOSQUITO NUISANCE AT LYNEMOUTH.

During the past few years the inhabitants of Lynemouth and neighbourhood have suffered greatly from severe mosquito bites and this nuisance recurred in 1946. About three years ago I pointed out that the condition of the River Lyne at Lynemouth was such as to be likely to encourage the breeding of mosquitos and in 1946 it was definitely proved that these insects had in fact established themselves there.

In June, 1946, Dr. J. H. Jackson, who was engaged in general practice in Morpeth, and who had had considerable experience in anti-mosquito and anti-malarial work, offered his assistance in the investigation of the Lynemouth plague. This offer was gladly accepted and Dr. Jackson paid numerous visits to the River Lyne and carried out a great deal of work on the subject.

He collected mosquito eggs, larvæ and pupæ, allowed them to hatch out and identified the adult insects. In this way he proved that the following types were breeding in the river.

1. CULEX PIPiens.

This is of little importance except that it shows that the local conditions are suitable for breeding.

2. THEOBALDIA (THEOBALDIA) ANNULATA (and/or THEOBALDIA SUBOCHREA).

The two species differ slightly and both may be in the area. Both bite man and animals and the bites are known to be exceptionally severe in the case of humans, either owing to the venom of the insect or the nature of the water in which the insect breeds.

3. ANOPHELES (ANOPHELES) MACULIPENNIS V. ATROPARVUS.

Bites man and animal with a preference for the latter. This species goes into partial hibernation in dark ill-ventilated stables, cowsheds and pigsties. It is a potential carrier of malaria.

4. AEDES (OCHLEROTATUS) DETRITUS.

Sometimes called the "salt marsh mosquito"—it can breed in water of any degree of salinity up to 1½ times that of sea water, but has also been known to breed in fresh water. It has a greater flight range than any other British mosquito except *Aedes Caspius*. It is a vicious and persistent biter and exceeds any other British species in its ability to cause widespread annoyance.

5. ANOPHELES (ANOPHELES) CLAVIGER.

The presence of this species was suspected from larval collections. It is known to bite man, but seldom, if ever, enters houses and therefore is troublesome only out of doors.

These mosquitos were found breeding in all parts of the mouth of the river from the sewage pumping station to the lowest bridge. The only adult mosquitos caught in the act of biting were of the *Aedes detritus* type, which has also been breeding in enormous numbers during the past few years in the water of the Blue Holes on the borders of Ashington and Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Urban Districts.

It will be seen that the problem is one of considerable magnitude. During the summer months two men were employed by the Council on whole-time work, clearing away vegetation and spraying the margins of the river. This appeared to result in some mitigation of the plague, but it must be remembered that the summer of 1946 was a poor one and did not provide the optimum conditions of warmth and sunlight which encourage mosquito breeding.

The joint committee appointed by the Councils of the Morpeth Rural District and the Ashington and Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Urban Districts held several meetings to consider the problem. An appeal was made to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Health and the area was inspected by the Senior Regional Medical Officer.

The Council also placed the matter before the Regional Office of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning and in October a conference was held in Newcastle at which the Regional Controller presided. Present at this meeting were Col. Temple and Mr. C. K. Leeds, Ministry of Fuel and Power; Mr. A. A. Cowie, Ministry of Health; Mr. Cheyne, County Planning Officer; Mr. Cookson, Ashington Coal Company; Mr. Johnston, Northumberland Rivers Catchment Board; and Councillors Rutherford and Horne and the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector, representing the Morpeth Rural District Council. A long discussion took place and finally it was agreed that no permanent remedial measures could be undertaken until a complete survey of the river had been made to determine the exact cause of the present unsatisfactory conditions and the extent and nature of the work required to restore the amenities and abolish the mosquito breeding-grounds.

Mr. Johnston and Mr. Cookson expressed the opinion that the Northumberland Rivers Catchment Board might be willing, as the only appropriate body, to undertake this survey, although the River Lyne does not normally come within the jurisdiction of the Board. They stated that they would lay the matter before the Board and give the suggested survey their support.

There the question had to be left for the time being.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED during the year 1946:

(a) By Local Authority (with State assistance)	...	...	...	...	...	25
(b) By other bodies or persons (unaided)	...	...	...	...	...	3

1. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	52
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

2. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 9, 10 AND 11 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which "notices" were served requiring repairs	112
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:	
(a) By owners ...	72 }
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil }

(B) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :									
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners				...	...	Nil		Nil	Nil

(C) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 AND 12 OF HOUSING ACT, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	Nil

(D) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

3. NUMBER OF HOUSES PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED AS DWELLINGS
and not included above 11

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of cowkeepers (registered) in the district	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Approximate number of cows kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,790

Set out below is a comprehensive summary of the results of bacteriological and biological reports on samples of milk, displayed in various categories. In order to prevent duplication in the taking of samples, an exchange of information between the Sanitary Departments of the five constituent authorities respecting sampling has been carried out.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN FROM ALL SOURCES : 84.

Producers in the Rural District (taken by "Inside" Officials)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Producers out of the Rural District (taken by "Inside" Officials)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Producers in the Rural District (taken by "Outside" Officials)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
								—
								84

F FARMS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT (SAMPLED BY "INSIDE" OFFICIALS).

TUBERCULIN TESTED (2 samples).

- 1 Satisfied Methylene Blue test only.
- 1 Failed the Methylene Blue test only.
- Both samples tested for Tuberculosis : 1 negative, 1 inconclusive—animal died.
- Neither sample tested for B.Coli.

ACCREDITED (2 samples).

- 1 Satisfied the Methylene Blue test only.
- 1 Failed the Methylene Blue test only.
- Both samples tested for Tuberculosis but not for B.Coli.

UNDESIGNATED (7 samples).

- 5 Satisfied the Methylene Blue test only.
- 2 Failed the Methylene Blue test only.
- All samples tested for Tuberculosis but none for B.Coli.

FARMS "OUTSIDE" THE RURAL DISTRICT (SAMPLED BY "INSIDE" OFFICIALS).

TUBERCULIN TESTED (1 sample).

1 Failed the Methylene Blue test only.

The above sample was tested for Tuberculosis but not for B.Coli.

ACCREDITED (3 samples).

2 Satisfied the Methylene Blue test only.

1 Failed the Methylene Blue test only.

All 3 samples tested for Tuberculosis but none for B.Coli.

PASTEURISED (1 sample).

1 Failed the Methylene Blue test only.

The above sample *not* tested for Tuberculosis or B.Coli.

UNDESIGNATED.

No samples taken.

FARMS "INSIDE" RURAL DISTRICT (SAMPLED BY "OUTSIDE" OFFICIALS).

TUBERCULIN TESTED (22 samples).

15 Satisfied both Methylene Blue and B.Coli tests.

*6 Satisfied Methylene Blue test only.

1 Satisfied B.Coli test only.

1 Tested for Tuberculosis only.

- Positive Tuberculosis.

*Note.—1 sample satisfied Methylene Blue test but failed B.Coli test.

16 samples tested for both Methylene Blue and B.Coli.

5 samples tested for Methylene Blue only.

1 sample tested for Tuberculosis only.

ACCREDITED (17 samples).

4 Satisfied both Methylene Blue and B.Coli tests.

2 Satisfied Methylene Blue test only.

*1 Satisfied B.Coli test only.

3 Failed Methylene Blue test only.

8 Tested for Tuberculosis.

4 Positive Tuberculosis.

*Note.—1 sample tested, failed Methylene Blue test, satisfied B.Coli test.

12 samples tested for Tuberculosis.

5 samples tested for Methylene Blue and B.Coli.

4 samples tested for Methylene Blue test only.

8 samples tested for Tuberculosis only (2 cows slaughtered).

UNDESIGNATED (29 samples).

11 Satisfied both Methylene Blue and B.Coli tests.

8 Satisfied Methylene Blue test only.

3 Failed both Methylene Blue and B.Coli tests.

1 Failed Methylene Blue test only.

2 Failed Methylene Blue—satisfied B.Coli test.

3 Failed B.Coli—satisfied Methylene Blue test.

1 Tested for Tuberculosis only.

1 Positive Tuberculosis.

8 samples tested for Tuberculosis.

19 tested for Methylene Blue and B.Coli.

9 tested for Methylene Blue only.

1 tested for Tuberculosis only (1 cow slaughtered).

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following foods were surrendered in the Morpeth Rural District to the Council's Meat Inspector:—

UN SOUND FOODS.	SURRENDERED.	SEIZED.
Beef ...	... 730½ lbs.	... —
Corned Beef ...	... 7 tins — 42¾ lbs.	... —
Luncheon Meat ...	... 3 tins — 2¼ lbs.	... —
Bacon ...	... 2¾ lbs.	... —
Ham ...	... 3 lbs.	... —
Steak and Kidney Soup ...	... 1 tin — ¾ lbs.	... —
Oxtail Soup ...	... 1 tin — 10½ ozs.	... —
Pea Soup ...	... 1 tin — 1 lb.	... —
Jam ...	76 jars — 76 lbs.	... —
Marmalade ...	2 tins — 4 lbs.	... —
Mincemeat ...	13 jars — 26 lbs.	... —
Fish ...	8 tins	... —
Fish Cakes ...	42	... —
Pudding Mixture ...	108 packets	... —
Chocolate Semolina ...	108 tins	... —
Peas ...	3 tins	... —
Beans ...	3 tins	... —
Tomatoes ...	1 tin	... —
Raisins ...	60 lbs.	... —
Barley ...	11½ lbs.	... —
Tea ...	2¾ lbs.	... —
Butter ...	46½ lbs.	... —
Margarine ...	23¼ lbs.	... —
Unsweetened Milk ...	2 tins — 29 ozs.	... —
Vinegar ...	43 3-gill bottles	... —
Chestnuts ...	60 lbs.	... —

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease was provided by the S.E. Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, of which the Rural District Council is a constituent authority.

	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Pneumonia ...	2	Unknown	4
Diphtheria ...	68	61	1
Scarlet Fever ...	10	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	3	2	—
Erysipelas ...	3	—	—
Measles ...	43	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	2	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	2	1	1
Typhoid ...	1	1	—

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
UNDER AGE GROUPS.

	Und. 1	1	2	3	4	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Total.
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Diphtheria	-	-	1	2	3	16	12	18	12	2	1	68
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-	1	1	5	2	One non-civilian				10
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Measles	1	5	5	3	3	24	2	-	-	-	-	43
Whooping Cough ..	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebro-Spinal F. .	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Typhoid Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

ENTERIC FEVER.

One case of Enteric Fever was notified. The patient was a boy of 17, who was removed to the Ashington Unit of the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, where he made a good recovery. A younger sister was also removed to hospital as a suspected carrier, but further investigation failed to provide evidence of infection with *B.Typhosus*. The source of the boy's infection was not discovered, but no further cases occurred.

MEASLES.

The district was entirely free from Measles during the first ten months of the year, but this disease again became prevalent during November and December, when 43 cases were notified. There were no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH.

This disease again declined in incidence and only two cases were notified during the whole year.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS).

After a prolonged absence from the district, this disease unfortunately reappeared in 1946 and three cases were notified. There is some reason for believing that one or two other cases occurred which were not notified and which became known to the Health Department only very belatedly and in a vague and roundabout manner. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.

The epidemic which began in the Stobswood and Widdrington area at the end of 1945 continued during January and February, 1946, and a further nine cases occurred in this area.

At the end of the year a small outbreak took place in the East Chevington and Red Row area. Twelve cases occurred in St. Andrew's Colony in the second fortnight of August.

Altogether 68 cases were notified, of whom 25 were known to have been inoculated against Diphtheria, and 61 were removed to hospital. There was one death which occurred in a non-immunised girl of six years.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The only school visited in 1946 was that at Longhirst. Time and the pressure of other work did not permit of visits to other schools in 1946, but it is hoped to arrange a series of visits in 1947.

Altogether during the year 228 pre-school children and 17 school children received the full course of treatment for the first time, while 15 children were given reinforcing injections.

At 31st December, 1946, the immunisation state of the child population was estimated to be as follows:—

Pre-school children immunised ... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	70%
School children immunised ... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	94.4%
Total population under 15 years immunised ... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	86%

DEFENCE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1939: SCABIES ORDER, 1941, No. 33A.

The incidence of Scabies showed a marked decrease, the number of cases treated being less than half of those treated in the previous year, 8 cases as compared with 18. Patients suffering from Scabies and Lice numbered 3 as compared with 2.

The cleansing station in Ashington continued to function during the year and clinics at which your Medical Officer attended were held twice weekly.

The following tables shows the number of persons from Morpeth Rural District who were treated according to their ages and conditions from which they suffered:—

	Scabies only.		Scabies & Lice.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Over 16 years ...	—	1	...	—
5 — 16 years ...	2	2	...	—
Under 5 years ...	—	—	...	—
	—	—	—	—
	2	3	—	3

Also appended is a table showing the total numbers treated from all the five districts included in the No. 2 Medical Area:—

	Scabies only.		Scabies & Lice.		Scabies not found.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Over 16 years ...	20	20	...	—	4	1
5 — 16 years ...	17	14	...	2	14	2
Under 5 years ...	12	3	...	1	3	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	49	37	3	21	6	1

TUBERCULOSIS. NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

AGE.	NEW CASES.						DEATHS.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.				Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 — 5 years	—	2	1	—	...	—	—	1
5 — 15 years	1	1	—	1	...	—	—	—
15 — 25 years	2	4	—	—	...	—	—	—
25 — 35 years	3	1	—	1	...	1	—	1
35 — 45 years	—	1	—	—	...	—	—	—
45 — 55 years	2	—	—	1	...	—	1	—
55 — 65 years	1	—	—	—	...	—	—	1
65 and over	1	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	10	9	1	3	—	—	2	1	2	1

CANCER MORTALITY DURING 1946.

SITE OF DISEASE.	MALES.						FEMALES.			
	40	45	55	65	Total.	40	45	55	65	Total.
Skin	...	—	—	1	1	...	—	—	—	1
Pharynx	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	1
Larynx	...	—	—	1	1	...	—	—	—	—
Trachea	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	1	—
Bronchus	...	—	1	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
Glands of Neck	...	—	—	1	1	...	—	—	—	—
Breast	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	1
Stomach	...	1	—	2	1	4	—	—	—	—
Liver	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	1
Pancreas	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
Colon	...	—	—	1	—	...	—	1	1	3
Rectum	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Uterus	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	1	—	1
Kidney	...	—	—	1	—	...	—	—	—	—
Bladder	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	5	6	13	—	2	3	5	10

Sarcoma of Gland of Neck: 1 M., aged 2 yrs.

Birth - rates, Civilian Death - rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1946. Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.s and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 — 50,000 1921 Census	London Adm. County			
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—							
Live Births	19.1‡	22.2	21.3	21.5			
Still Births	0.53‡	0.67	0.59	0.54			
DEATHS:—							
All Causes	11.5‡	12.7	11.7	12.7			
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02			
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01			
Influenza	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12			
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—			
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01			
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—							
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	43†	46	37	41			
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2			
* A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.							
† Per 1,000 related births.		‡ Rates per 1,000 total population.					
NOTIFICATIONS:—							
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—							
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01			
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01			
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06			
Scarlet Fever	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42			
Whooping Cough	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22			
Diphtheria	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24			
Erysipelas	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27			
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Measles	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35			
Pneumonia	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75			

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):—

(a) Notifications:—

Puerperal Fever }	8.50	10.35	7.63	1.62
Puerperal Pyrexia }				‡ 9.68

(b) Maternal Mortality in England and Wales:—

No. 140. Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141. Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147. Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142—6, 148—150. Other
0.13	0.06	0.18	1.06

Abortion:— Mortality per million women aged 15—45 in England and Wales:—

No. 140. With Sepsis

No. 141. Without Sepsis

J. & J. S. Mackay, Morpeth.

